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EDWARD N. BONNER SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

DEVON BELL UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Date/Time of Occurrence: Monday, December 5, 2011 1:42 a.m.

Nature of Event: Four arrested in large-scale gasoline theft

Location of Call: Auburn, CA

Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Four Sacramento residents were arrested by Placer County Sheriff's deputies early Monday morning when they were caught in the act of stealing \$2,600 worth of gasoline with a gas card stolen from the City of Auburn.

Deputies responded to the Dawson Oil card lock station on Bowman Road in Auburn at 1:42 a.m. after a caller reported that someone appeared to be stealing gas. Deputies found two pickup trucks with a total of twelve 55-gallon vinyl barrels filled with gasoline in the back of the two trucks. Suspect Raymond E. Farmer, 54, was in the process of filling one barrel in the back of his truck when deputies arrived. The second truck, driven by suspect John Patrick Steel, 47, was parked next to Farmer's and was sitting very low to the ground due to the weight of the full barrels.

Both Farmer and Steel had outstanding warrants and Farmer was on searchable probation. Farmer said they had purchased the gasoline using a Dawson Oil credit card but he told deputies that he did not know who owned the card. A Dawson Oil employee who came to the scene determined that the card belonged to the City of Auburn. Neither suspect works for the city. Farmer also said he took the 55-gallon barrels from a business in Sacramento, but he did not know the name of that business.

Farmer and Steel were arrested, along with a female passenger in each truck, and booked at the Placer County Jail. The women arrested were Dawn Marie Darnell, 47, and Ranae Lynn Miller, 40. All four were charged with grand theft, possession of stolen property, conspiracy and theft by credit card. Dawson Oil could not reuse the oil due to potential contamination.



Raymond Farmer



John Steel



Ranae Miller



Dawn Darnell